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BPA inks deal to buy wind energy

Agreement helps agency meet commitment to renewable energy development

Bonneville Power Administration

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ARLINGTON, Wyo. — The Bonneville Power Administration is backing up its commitment to support renewable energy development by signing an agreement this week with PacifiCorp and the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) to buy 37 percent of the output of a 41.4 megawatt wind turbine project to be located at the Foote Creek Rim near Arlington, Wyo.

"This agreement reflects BPA's interest in maintaining our quality of life in the Northwest by continuing to provide clean energy for the region," said BPA Administrator Randy Hardy. "We consider this power purchase to be a meaningful part of BPA's energy portfolio and plan to continue to pursue our renewable energy responsibilities."

U.S. Energy Secretary Fredrico Peña said, "Projects like this are pushing wind energy into the mainstream of electricity generation in the United States while contributing to a cleaner environment in the Rockies and the Pacific Northwest."

The Wyoming Wind Project will be the first major wind project involving Pacific Northwest utilities to move to the construction phase. It will test wind energy's ability to be a reliable, economical and environmentally acceptable resource. It also will demonstrate a wind turbine's ability to operate efficiently in a cold weather environment.

"I am delighted to see BPA, PacifiCorp and EWEB make this renewable project a reality," said Rachel Shimshak, director of the Renewable Northwest Project. "The Wyoming project is a significant accomplishment given the changes in the industry and it signals great promise for the future of renewables in the region."

"We're pleased and excited that the Wyoming Wind Project is moving forward at this time," said PacifiCorp Senior Vice President John Bohling. "PacifiCorp has a long history of working to protect the

environment, and this project goes hand-in-hand with this commitment. We've participated in both wind and solar research and have been involved with the development of wind resources since the early 1980s. Our company remains convinced that renewable resources, including wind, will be an integral part of our resource portfolio in the future."

PacifiCorp and EWEB will purchase the wind turbine project under a turnkey development arrangement with SeaWest and Tomen Power Corp., the project developers. PacifiCorp will take 47 percent of the output, EWEB 16 percent.

The project is on a fast-track schedule to achieve commercial operation by summer 1999. Construction is scheduled to begin in August, with the facility becoming fully operational by the end of 1998 or early 1999. The developer will install 69 Mitsubishi 600-kilowatt turbines at Foote Creek Rim. A ground breaking ceremony is planned for late September.

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